

## Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: KBROWN

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: GTWOHIE

S/S:WLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 997

FOLL REPEAT STATE 109313 ACTION CANBERRA WELLINGTON JAKARTA  
RANGOON BANGKOK SAIGON MANILA HONG KONG TAIPEI SEOUL TOKYO  
LONDON PARIS MOSCOW DACCA NEW DELHI ISLAMABAD KABUL KATHMANDU  
USUN NEW YORK INFO USLO PEKING 24 MAY 74 QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF MARINE GUARDS FROM PEKING

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE BEING USED BY USLO PEKING AND  
DEPARTMENT IN DEALING WITH PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT WITHDRAWAL  
OF MARINE GUARDS FROM USLO. STORY BROKE IN PEKING MAY 24,  
AND USLO HAS ALREADY DRAWN ON GUIDANCE WITH AUSTRALIAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS, AFP, REUTERS AND LONDON TIMES. ACTION  
POSTS SHOULD DIRECT ALL PRESS INQUIRIES TO DEPARTMENT'S  
PRESS SPOKESMAN, BUT MAY USE THIS GUIDANCE IN HANDLING ANY  
INQUIRIES BY HOST GOVERNMENTS.

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Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM THAT THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS ARE

BEING WITHDRAWN FROM PEKING, AND IF SO, WHY?

A. YES. THEY ARE BEING WITHDRAWN IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PRC AND WILL BE REPLACED BY CIVILIAN PERSONNEL. THE REASON GIVEN BY THE PRC GOVERNMENT IS THAT OUR MARINE SECURITY GUARDS ARE THE ONLY "RECOGNIZABLE FOREIGN MILITARY UNIT" IN THE PRC AND THAT NO OTHER FOREIGN MISSION IN PEKING USES MILITARY PERSONNEL AS SECURITY GUARDS.

Q. HAVEN'T THE MARINE GUARDS BEEN IN PEKING SINCE USLO WAS ESTABLISHED? WHY HAVE THE CHINESE MADE THE REQUEST NOW?

A. SIX MARINE SECURITY GUARDS HVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO USLO SINCE IT WAS ESTABLISHED IN MAY 1973. HOWEVER, THIS IS NOT A NEW ISSUE; IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR. WHEN THEY RAISED THE MATTER AGAIN RECENTLY, WE DECIDED TO AGREE TO REPLACE THE MARINE GUARDS WITH CIVILIAN PERSONNEL.

Q. WHEN DID THE CHINESE MAKE THE LATEST REQUEST, AND WHEN WAS IT DISCUSSED IN THE PAST?

A. AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RAISED THE MATTER WITH MR. BRUCE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ME TO GO INTO DETAIL ON DISCUSSIONS GOING BACK TO LAST YEAR.

Q. DID THE MARINE GUARDS DO ANYTHING WHICH PRECIPITATED THE CHINESE REQUEST?

A. AS I HAVE SAID, THE CHINESE OBJECT TO THE PRESENCE OF WHAT THEY VIEW AS A FOREIGN MILITARY UNIT. OUR DECISION TO CHANGE TO CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IN NO WAY REFLECTS ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS. THEIR WORK HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING AND THEIR CONDUCT ABOVE REPROACH.

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Q. WHEN WILL THE CHANGE BE MADE?

A. IT WILL BE COMPLETED IN JUNE.

Q. DO WE USE CIVILIAN SECURITY GUARDS INSTEAD OF MARINES AT ANY OTHER POSTS?

A. NO.

Q. ISN'T THE CHINESE REQUEST EVIDENCE THAT THE US-PRC  
RELATIONSHIP IS RUNNING INTO TROUBLE?

A. WE CONSIDER THE MATTER UNRELATED TO THE MAINTENANCE  
OF THE PRESENT SATISFACTORY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO  
COUNTRIES. IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS NOT A  
NEW ISSUE. IT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS  
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

Q. MIGHT THE CHINESE REQUEST BE RELATED TO THE PRESENT  
CAMPAIGN IN CHINA, WHICH HAS ANTI-FOREIGN OVERTONES?

A. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THERE IS ANY SUCH  
RELATIONSHIP. RUSH  
UNQUOTE RUSH

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